

**SOCIOLOGY 200H1F 2013  
THE LOGIC OF SOCIAL INQUIRY**

Prof. Marin  
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**Office Hours:** T 2-4  
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**Class Time:** M 12-2  
**Location:** SS2135  
**Web Page:** portal.utoronto.ca

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

If the duty of a sociologist is to ask and answer questions about the social world (and it is!), consider this course basic training. You will learn how to ask sociologically relevant questions and how to discover the answers to those questions ethically, logically, rigorously and systematically. In the first half of the course you will learn the major steps in designing a social research project, including how to ask sociological questions, how to develop logical and testable hypotheses, how to define and measure concepts, and how to identify an appropriate sample. In the second half of the course you will learn about different methods of collecting data. Throughout we will focus on how different methods are suited to answering different questions and how the methods we choose affect the answers we are able to see.

The prerequisite to take this course is SOC101Y or both SOC102H and SOC103H. Students lacking this prerequisite can be removed at any time without notice.

**COURSE GOALS**

After completing this course, students should be able to

- formulate empirically testable sociological questions and hypotheses
- identify key concepts in sociological theories, questions and hypotheses
- describe, develop and evaluate measures of sociological concepts
- describe, develop and evaluate sampling procedures for sociological research
- describe different methods of collecting sociological data and describe their merits and limitations
- locate, read, and evaluate sociological journal articles

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Course requirements include two tests and two assignments. Tests will include multiple choice questions, short answers questions and an essay question. Assignments will be available on the course web page.

Test 1	26%
Assignment 1	27%
Assignment 2	27%
Test #2	20%

**REQUIRED READINGS**

*Available from the U of T bookstore or your favourite online retailer:*  
Babbi and Benquisto, Fundamentals of Social Research, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition.

Week #	Date	COURSE OUTLINE	
1	Sept. 9	Introduction	No readings.
2	Sept. 16	Asking Sociological Questions	Babbi and Benaquisto, Chapters 1-2
3	Sept. 23	Thinking About Causation	Babbi and Benaquisto, Chapter 3-4
4	Sept. 30	Concepts and Measurement	Babbi and Benaquisto, Chapters 5-6
5	Oct. 7	Sampling	Babbi and Benaquisto, Chapter 7
6	Oct. 21	<b>Test #1</b>	
7	Oct. 28	Experiments	Babbi and Benaquisto, Chapter 8
8	Nov. 4	Surveys	Babbi and Benaquisto, Chapter 9
9	Nov. 18	Interviews	<b>Assignment #1 Due</b> Babbi and Benaquisto, Chapter 12
10	Nov. 25	Ethnography	<b>Assignment #2 Due</b>
11	Dec. 2	Unobtrusive Measures	Babbi and Benaquisto, Chapters 10
12	Dec. 4	<b>Test #2</b>	

### COURSE POLICIES

#### ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION

Attendance is required. Students are responsible for all material presented in class. Students who are unable to attend class on a given day are responsible for obtaining from their classmates notes on all material covered, as well as information regarding any administrative announcements that may have been made. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned.

Please note that there are two sections of SOC200 being offered this semester. These sections are not interchangeable: The lectures, requirements, assignments, tests, and course policies differ. Therefore, it is important that you attend and attend to the section in which you are enrolled.

#### COURSE WEB SITE

The course website prepared on the Blackboard system is available at [portal.utoronto.ca](http://portal.utoronto.ca). The site will contain the course syllabus, all handouts, links of interest, and course announcements. Students are responsible for the content of all course materials. Discussion boards have been enabled on the course web site. All students are expected to behave respectfully towards their classmates and towards the professor and T.A.s. A course web site as also been created at [www.coursepeer.com](http://www.coursepeer.com).

#### EMAIL

When emailing your professor or TAs, you must use your utoronto.ca address, as this is the only address we can be sure is yours. Please also be sure to include "SOC200" in the subject line. All students are responsible for checking their official utoronto.ca email addresses regularly, including the evening before class.

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due in hard copy at the beginning of class on due date provided and must be uploaded to turnitin.com by 5pm on that date. Assignments will be considered late if *either* the hard copy is not submitted on time or the turnitin.com upload is not submitted on time. To submit a late assignment, bring your assignment to the Sociology Department room 225. Date stamp your paper and insert it in the box for third year courses. Do not put the assignment under my door or in my mailbox.

Late hard copies will be penalized 5 percentage points per day. Late turnitin.com uploads will be penalized 1 percentage point per day. Late hard copies should be submitted to the Sociology department at 725 Spadina. Bring assignments to room 225, timestamp it, and drop it in the box for second year courses. Drop boxes are available from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, excluding days on which the university is closed. **DO NOT put papers in the professors mailbox or slide them under the professor's door.**

### **MISSED TESTS**

Students who a test or the in-class assignment will be assigned a mark of 0. Students may, **at the discretion of the professor**, have an absence excused with proper documentation. You must also submit an original University of Toronto Student Medical Certificate completed by a doctor who treated you **on or before the day of the test or assignment**. The Student Medical Certificate is available on the University of Toronto's web site and may be completed by a Health Services physician or by your own physician: <http://www.healthservice.utoronto.ca/pdfs/medcert.htm>. No other medical certification will be accepted. **Documentation must be presented within one week of the missed test or assignment. One make-up test will be scheduled. Students who do not attend the scheduled make-up test will receive a mark of 0.**

### **USE OF WRITING CENTRES**

*All* students are encouraged to use their available writing centres. Writing tutors provide help you to think through your ideas, develop a thesis, organize your paper, present your evidence effectively, argue logically, and express yourself more clearly and concisely. Proofreading and copyediting for spelling, grammar, or format are *not* within the primary scope of the writing labs' services.

### **TURNITIN.COM**

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

### **RE-GRADING TESTS/ASSIGNMENTS**

All requests for re-grading the term test or course assignment should be made to your TA within two weeks of the date when the test/assignment was returned to the class. A short memo that clearly states specific reasons to justify the request and backs up these reasons with evidence from your assignment must be submitted to your TA. No re-grading requests will be considered if the request is submitted more than two weeks after the test or assignment was returned to the class. This deadline applies to all students including those who missed the class when the test/assignment was returned and picked up his/her test/assignment at a later date. It is the responsibility of the student to pick up their tests/assignments on time in class.

### **ACCESSIBILITY**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including
  - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work,
  - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing".
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

**To remind you of these expectations, and help you avoid accidental offences, I will ask you to include a signed Academic Integrity Checklist with every assignment. If you do not include the statement, your work will not be graded.**

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](#). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to me or seek the advice of your college registrar.

## STUDENT CONTACTS

You are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements. If you are unable to attend class, you should obtain notes from a classmate. Write down the names and contact information for two of your classmates below so you'll have someone to contact if you need notes.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other (IM etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Other (IM etc.): \_\_\_\_\_